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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2001 2006

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AIR TOUCH

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FOREIGN SERVICE DISPATCH

FROM: AMEMBASSY, VIENNA

Despatch No. 158

TO : Department of State, Washington

Date: August 22, 1957 IO. 2

SUBJECT: Joint Weeks No. 34

ACTION I / P-1 C.1 U/C-1  
8/21 C.1-10 I / N.W. 2 K.E.P. 2 I.C.A. 10 U/M.S.A. E.V. 5  
U.S.A. 10 O.S.D. 2 Army 35 Navy 30  
Aug 24 C.I.A. 16 O.S.C. 2 ACCANT-1

POLITICAL

### 1. Yugoslav Refugees

Min Int Helmer announced that due high influx refugees from Yugoslavia Aust had asked UNHCR facilitate transfer these refugees to other countries. Helmer indicated about 2,600 refugees came into Aust from Yugoslavia during July and estimated another 3,500 would probably arrive in August, with total Yugoslav refugee figure expected be near 20,000 for this year.

Helmer indicated failure to move significant numbers these refugees out of Aust would force reconsideration Austrian policy on granting asylum. (UNCLASSIFIED)

### 2. July Report of Institute for Economic Research

In its evaluation of economic developments in July the Austrian Institute for Economic Research notes the continuation of generally favorable economic trends, while issuing a warning on the dangers of potential price increases. (UNCLASSIFIED)

### 3. Death of Johann Sanitzer

Press reported this week death of Johann Sanitzer at 53, former Vienna Gestapo official. Sanitzer, sentenced to life-long imprisonment in 1949, was taken by Sov occupation troops to Russia and returned to Aust in 1955 after conclusion State Treaty. Reason for six year detention alleged espionage. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Sanitzer's death of historic interest only. Periodically after his return to Aust, local Commies flayed Aust govt for not putting Sanitzer behind bars again. (UNCLASSIFIED)

W.C. Callowayrak

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Paulson 201  
in RI

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy ☐  
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒  
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

FOR COORDINATION WITH State

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SECRET

INITIALS

ADP

The first official announcement was made on 10 August of the call-up for military service of 15,600 new draftees on 1 October. This is the first increment of the age class 1938. (UNCLAS FROTH)

Comment: This call-up will bring the Austrian Army to its highest strength, approximately 35,000. (UNCLAS FROTH)

ADP - Negative

REMARKS:

*Sauergerkenheit*

1. Only editorial writers berate in "Sour Picketing."

Domestic scene continued to be dominated by dog days atmosphere, known in Austrian vernacular as "sour picketing," with probably only editorial writers really taking anything seriously.

One unusual ripple of somewhat significant excitement was caused by inclusion of "highly realistic" children's drawings portraying British attacks upon Suez in Egyptian contemporary art exhibit sponsored in Vienna by Egyptian Legation. Socialist  Arbeiterzeitung sharply criticized this for having "misused Austrian neutrality by spreading anti-British propaganda in Vienna through ostensibly harmless medium of art." People's Party Neue Tageszeitung also expressed regret at inclusion of drawings "which obviously are to serve political slogan of the 'Suez peace idea.'" Papers reported there was no official Austrian representation at exhibit opening because authorities learned in advance about Suez drawings.

Syria attracted most editorial comment, bulk of which was on gloomy side and included direct or indirect criticism of U.S. policy. Coalition Neue Österreich, which has been viewing world situation through unusually dark glasses for several months, in high-pitched front-page editorial described Syrian developments as "without doubt one of worst defeats of United States since beginning of cold war."  Arbeiterzeitung saw a chance for U.S. to change course of events by "pumping aid into Syria" to pro-American neighbor countries, "thus 'coddling up' present Syrian government through resultant economic contrast between neighbors and Syria." People's Party Das Kleine Volksblatt considered Syria already lost to Communism while another OeVP paper, Neue Tageszeitung, considered situation as dangerous but not hopeless. Independent Die Presse played up report by London correspondent quoting British quarters as regarding Syrian trouble "punishment for America's Suez treason." Communist Volksstimme gave much publicity to Syrian side of story, including favorable stories involving Egypt's role.

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Decision in favor of UNIA special session on Hungarian report heartily approved by Austrian public. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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